

- 1 In the claims:
- 2 1. A method for displaying data comprising:
- 3 determining a database schema for a database;
- 4 providing a list of database fields, wherein the list includes a descriptor indicating
- 5 a data category;
- 6 receiving a search selection for a database field on the provided list of database
- 7 fields;
- 8 determining a quantity of entries in the selected database field;
- 9 if the quantity exceed a specified amount,
- 10 truncating data, and
- 11 displaying the truncated data; and
- 12 if the quantity does not exceed the specified amount, displaying content from the
- 13 database field.
- 14 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a key word search.
- 15 3. A method for formatting data for display, comprising:
- 16 generating a list of data fields;
- 17 receiving a first data field selection from the list of data fields;
- 18 determining a first quantity indicative of a number of entries of the selected data
- 19 field;
- 20 if the first quantity exceeds a specified limit, reducing a size of data to be
- 21 displayed from the selected data field; and
- 22 displaying data from the selected data field.
- 23 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the specified limit is fixed.
- 24 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the specified limit is variable.
- 25 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the data are displayed on a terminal, and wherein
- 26 the specified limit is determined dynamically, based on a characteristic of the terminal.
- 27 7. The method of claim 3, wherein the specified limit is a user-determined limit.
- 28 8. The method of claim 3, wherein the method for reducing the size of the data to be
- 29 displayed from the selected data field comprises:
- 30 performing a truncation that reduces the size of the data to be displayed from the
- 31 selected data field;
- 32 comparing the reduced size to the specified limit; and

- 1 if the reduced size exceeds the specified limit, repeating the truncation and
- 2 comparing steps until the size of the data to be displayed from the selected data field is
- 3 less than or equal to the specified limit.
- 4 9. The method of claim 8, wherein a parameter is related to the size of the data to be
- 5 displayed from the selected data field, and wherein the truncation comprises
- 6 decrementing the parameter.
- 7 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the parameter is decremented or incremented by a
- 8 value of one.
- 9 11. The method of claim 8, wherein a parameter is related to the size of the data to be
- 10 displayed from the selected data field, and wherein the truncation comprises dividing the
- 11 parameter by a value.
- 12 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the value is two.
- 13 13. The method of claim 8, wherein a parameter is related to the size of the data to be
- 14 displayed from the selected data field, and wherein the truncation comprises multiplying
- 15 the parameter by a value.
- 16 14. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
- 17 receiving a first constraint, wherein the first constraint is related to a data element
- 18 in a data field; and
- 19 receiving one or more subsequent constraints, wherein search results are generated
- 20 based on a combination of the first and the one or more subsequent constraints.
- 21 15. A method for searching a database, comprising:
- 22 selecting a first search term;
- 23 sending the first search term to a search engine;
- 24 receiving a first search result;
- 25 selecting and sending a second search term to the search engine; and
- 26 receiving a second search result, wherein the second search results represents a
- 27 combination of the first and the second search terms.
- 28 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
- 29 selecting and sending a third search term to the search engine;
- 30 dropping a prior search term, wherein the dropped prior search term in one of the
- 31 first and the second search terms; and
- 32 receiving a third search result comprising a combination of the third search term
- 33 and one of the first and the second search terms.

- 1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the first search term is directed to a first  
2 database and wherein the second search term is directed to a second database.
- 3 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the first search result is displayed as a truncated  
4 result list.
- 5 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising specifying a size of the truncation.
- 6 20. A method for searching a database, comprising: ✓  
7 generating a list of data fields;  
8 receiving a first data field selection from the list of data fields;  
9 receiving a first constraint, wherein the first constraint is related to a data element  
10 in a data field; and  
11 receiving one or more subsequent constraints, wherein search results are generated  
12 based on a combination of the first and the one or more subsequent constraints.
- 13 21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
14 determining a first quantity indicative of a number of entries of the selected data  
15 field;  
16 if the first quantity exceeds a specified limit, reducing a size of data to be  
17 displayed from the selected data field; and  
18 displaying data from the selected data field.
- 19 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the specified limit is fixed.
- 20 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the specified limit is variable.
- 21 24. The method of claim 21, wherein the data are displayed on a terminal, and  
22 wherein the specified limit is determined dynamically, based on a characteristic of the  
23 terminal.
- 24 25. The method of claim 21, wherein the specified limit is a user-determined limit.
- 25 26. The method of claim 21, wherein the method for reducing the size of the data to  
26 be displayed from the selected data field comprises:  
27 performing a truncation that reduces the size of the data to be displayed from the  
28 selected data field;  
29 comparing the reduced size to the specified limit; and  
30 if the reduced size exceeds the specified limit, repeating the truncation and  
31 comparing steps until the size of the data to be displayed from the selected data field is  
32 less than or equal to the specified limit.

- 1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein a parameter is related to the size of the data to  
2 be displayed from the selected data field, and wherein the truncation comprises  
3 decrementing or incrementing the parameter.
- 4 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the parameter is decremented or incremented by  
5 a value of one.
- 6 29. The method of claim 26, wherein a parameter is related to the size of the data to  
7 be displayed from the selected data field, and wherein the truncation comprises dividing  
8 the parameter by a value.
- 9 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the value is two.
- 10 31. The method of claim 26, wherein a parameter is related to the size of the data to  
11 be displayed from the selected data field, and wherein the truncation comprises  
12 multiplying the parameter by a value.
- 13 32. A method for providing search functions in one or more databases, comprising:  
14 receiving a first search term;  
15 searching at least a first database using the first search term;  
16 returning a first search result, wherein the first search result comprises a first list  
17 of elements in the first database;  
18 receiving a second search term;  
19 conducting a second search by applying the second search term to one of the first  
20 list of elements and a second database; and  
21 returning a second search result, wherein the second search results represents a  
22 combination of the first and the second search terms.
- 23 33. The method of claim 32, further comprising:  
24 receiving a third search term;  
25 receiving a signal to drop one of the first and the second search terms;  
26 dropping the selected one of the first and the second search terms, wherein  
27 dropping the selected one of the first and the second search terms provides a revised list  
28 of elements;  
29 searching one of the revised list of elements and one of the second or subsequent  
30 databases using the third search term; and  
31 returning a third list of elements comprising a combination of the third search  
32 term and the non-selected one of the first and the second search terms.
- 33 34. The method of claim 32, wherein the first search result is returned as a truncated  
34 list of elements.

- 1 35. A method for navigating one or more databases, comprising:  
2 receiving a first attribute associated with elements in one or more of the databases,  
3 wherein the first attribute comprises a first search term;  
4 retuning a first search result based on the first attribute;  
5 receiving a second attribute associated with elements in one or more of the  
6 databases, wherein the second attributes comprises a second search term;  
7 generating a second search result based on the second attribute;  
8 merging the first and the second search results to provide a merged search result;  
9 and  
10 returning the merged search result.
- 11 36. The method of claim 35, further comprising:  
12 truncating the merged search result based on a display size of a device receiving  
13 the merged search result.
- 14 37. A method for retrieving data from one or more databases; comprising:  
15 receiving a first constraint, wherein the first constraint relates to a first data  
16 attribute;  
17 receiving a second constraint, wherein the second constraint relates to a second  
18 data attribute;  
19 determining if the first and the second constraint are in a same merge group;  
20 generating a database query based on the determining step; and  
21 returning a first merged search result.
- 22 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the first and the second constraints are in the  
23 same merge group, further comprising:  
24 generating a Boolean AND as the database query.
- 25 39. The method of claim 37, wherein the first and the second constraint are in  
26 different merge groups, further comprising:  
27 generating a Boolean OR as the database query.
- 28 40. The method of claim 37, wherein the first and the second constraints are recovered  
29 using a wireless connector, and wherein the first merged search result is returned using  
30 the wireless connection.
- 31 41. A method for searching one or more databases, wherein each of the one or more  
32 databases comprises a plurality of fields, comprising:  
33 getting a first list of fields of a first database;

1           applying a first filter to the final list of fields, wherein the final filter comprises a  
2 first search constraint;  
3           applying a second filter to the first list of fields, wherein the second filter  
4 comprises a second search constraint;  
5           applying a third filter to the first list of filters, wherein the third filter comprises a  
6 third search constraint;  
7           removing at least one of the first, second and third filters, whereby a search result  
8 is generated; and  
9           displaying the search result.

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